

POOR DOCUMENT

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THE EVENING TIMES AND STAR, ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1920

PRINCESS MARY SHOWN REVIEWING THE GIRL GUIDES AT ALDERSHOT RECENTLY



WOMEN CONVICTS
PREFER DEATH TO
IMPRISONMENT

Story of the Only Woman
Who Ever Escaped From
Auburn Prison.

(Toronto Mail and Empire.)

A few days ago we republished from the Sing Sing Bulletin the view of a condemned murderer on capital punishment. He said that he had talked with many other murderers and all agreed that at the moment of committing the crime none of them had thought about the penalty. He said also that if it were not for the sake of family and friends few of them would not choose execution to the long horror of life imprisonment. On the latter point there appears to be corroboration in the case of Irene Miley, the only woman ever to escape from Auburn prison, and her companion, Mary Smith, being the only woman ever to accomplish this difficult feat. Men have escaped on several occasions, but only one of them remains at large. The two girls were caught soon after in Syracuse, and are now once more locked up. Their adventure was sensational in the extreme, and it was only after they had got away that the fact came to light that Irene Miley a few days before had tried to commit suicide, preferring death to even the humane confinement she was subjected to.

She Preferred Death.

Irene was sentenced to from five to nine years' imprisonment for embezzling the funds of a New York lawyer whom she was employed as stenographer. She had served one year of her term when she decided to take her own life. "All the girls were receiving letters but me," she says. "They celebrated Mother's Day a week in advance by some mistake, and they talked a lot about mothers and things like that, and I got to thinking of my sweetheart, who has not written since I was sent to prison. I got so blue I decided to end it all. There isn't a soul on the outside who cares what happens to me, and I've still got eight years to do. I tried to hang myself to my cell door with my bathrobe. Mary found me, though, and cut me down. It was then we decided to try to escape, for I told Mary I'd never try to serve my time out. She was afraid I would kill myself and agreed to go with me." Both the young women declared that they never would live to serve their time. They had no complaints to make about the way they were treated, except that the food was insufficient and of an inferior quality. Since her confinement the Smith girl's weight has declined from 170 pounds to 120, and the Miley girl's reduced from 115 pounds to ninety-five.

Smart Costs From Blankets.

Mary Smith appears to be slightly more cheerful. There is at least one person outside who cares for her. This is the lover whom she tried to murder. She did not quite succeed, and escaped with a sentence of from five to ten years, of which she has already put in two. Mary was a needle-woman, having toiled in a sweat shop, where she learned among other things, the meaning of ingenuity. It was due to her that the escape was so successful. She it was who contrived to get hold of several blankets, from which she fashioned two astonishingly stylish looking long coats which, they, the girls, wore over their prison clothes and also two particularly smart-looking hats or toques. One might well predict that when Mary regains her freedom she will be able to make a good living at her old trade.

Filing the Keys.

How it was possible to steal these blankets is not revealed, and the girls naturally decline to tell how they got hold of the files they used. They secreted a couple of spoons, and in some mysterious manner were able to take an impression of some of the prison's keys. Having their models before them, they filed the spoons into odd looking but useful keys. Thus equipped it was a simple matter to unscrew the flimsy locks from their doors. They had to be replaced and were held in position by tacks in order that when the door was tried, an operation that was performed every hour after nine o'clock, when the prisoners were sent to bed, the turnkey would be deceived. As soon as the nine o'clock inspection had been made, Mary drew the tacks out of the door, and the lock fell to the ground with a crash. But nobody heard it, and she was then able to enter the corridor and go to Irene's cell. The weaker Irene had more difficulty in removing the tacks, and her lock, too, fell on the floor. But nobody was aroused, and then, using the keys, they unlocked the door leading to the dormitory. Outside in the corridor they were nearly spotted by a honest matron, but they hid under a table and soon found their way to the kitchen.

Scaling a Twelve-foot Wall.

Here there was one unbarred window. It was a considerable distance from the ground, but the girls had provided themselves with more blankets, and tying them together, they made a rope. It proved too short, and they had to risk a fall. Nevertheless they let go, and although jarred and scratched, were able to pick themselves up and make for the twelve-foot wall. By placing a spade against it, Mary managed to scramble to the top. She had a long, hard task pulling Irene up after her, but this was ac-

LOCAL NEWS

Rev. E. P. Wright, curate of St. Luke's church preached an eloquent sermon in St. John's Stone church yesterday morning.

The Young-Adams Stock Company having completed their engagement in this city, left last evening on the Montreal train. The company has been disbanded for the summer. There were very few other passengers on the 420 train for Montreal.

W. C. McKay, the popular manager of the Opera House, was recently remembered by the employees of the house on the occasion of his birthday. The employees presented to Mr. McKay a set of pipes, accompanied by wishes for a bright and prosperous future.

Morris McGuire of Scranton, Pa., was fined \$10 by Magistrate Adams in the Brookville court Saturday night for speeding on the Rotherway road. Joseph McGuire, a brother, interfered with the arrest and it is understood action will be taken against him also.

By falling from his bicycle between the wheel of the school van at Rotherway Friday, Kenneth, twelve year old son of F. J. Nesbit, manager of the New Brunswick Telephone Company, had his foot badly crushed. He was taken to his home at Renforth and Dr. G. A. B. Addy was called. It was thought no bones are broken.

Pulpit exchanges were made yesterday morning in the city churches between Rev. George P. Dawson, of the Exmouth street Methodist church, and Rev. M. E. Coonan, of the Zion Methodist church, and between Rev. H. A. Goodwin, of Centenary, and Rev. George Morris, of Queen Square.

W. B. Hanna, president of the Canadian National Railways Board, has informed the board of trade that increased trackage will be made at the yards here and that dockage facilities, overhead bridge and expropriation of land at the Union depot area are being considered by the board.

In St. Philip's church the services were conducted by Mr. McIntyre, yesterday, Rev. C. N. Stewart of Amherst, being unavoidably detained and unable to come to the city in time. The latest reports of Rev. R. H. W. Pinkett are that he was able to move the tumor on one side slightly but was otherwise in a serious condition suffering from a tumor of the brain and paralysis.

Mrs. A. W. Adams, regent of the St. John masonic lodge, returned yesterday from Calgary where she had been attending the annual meeting of the national chapter. Mrs. Adams has been appointed representative of the Daughters of the Empire at the meeting of their National Council of Women to be held in St. John next week.

R. E. Armstrong, president of the New Brunswick Division of the Navy League, who returned from Toronto on Saturday, said that the sessions of the Dominion Council were most enthusiastic and inspiring, and the keynote of the meeting was a determination to carry on and to make the Navy League a more potent factor in Canadian affairs, despite the fact that certain provinces showed a waning interest.

Rev. Dr. Harrison, preaching last night in the Fairville Methodist church on the coming prohibition referendum delivered an impressive sermon and when at the conclusion of the service he asked all those who were willing to assist in the electioneering campaign in the cause of prohibition to remain almost the entire congregation remained. All expressed a willingness to assist in any way in the campaign which is to be organized at a meeting in Temperance hall this evening.

According to an announcement in Bathurst recently negotiations between the federal government, the Caraque and Gulf Shore railway management and the Gloucester county business men are under way preparatory to the taking over of that railway system by the Canadian National railways. Terms and details will be announced shortly. Much improvement is needed on the railway, which is impossible for the company to provide. The line with its branches serves about 20,000 people and this announcement will be received with much favor.

The heavy rains of the last two days have been a great relief to the farmers and fire-fighters. Several dangerous wood fires in Kings county were effectively extinguished. One near Quispamis threatened to assume dangerous proportions and on Saturday had reached a point within one mile of the village. Crews of men fought it and only one building was damaged. The men of Kensington (P. E. I.) were out fighting a forest fire when a house in the village took fire. The women of the place promptly organized and extinguished the fire.

Completed and a moment later the girls were at liberty. They walked most of the night, and at dawn found themselves only four miles from the prison. Then they saw a man in a motor car, and giving him a hard luck story, induced him to drive them to Syracuse. Here also they fell with benevolent strangers, who bought them meals and gave them some loose change. But in the meantime the news of their escape had been wired to all parts of the state, and the girls, being without friends, a definite objective, and short of cash, were soon picked up by a policeman and once more placed behind the bars.

WANTS TO PASS
GOOD NEWS ON

Wm. Armstrong Says It Is
Wonderful the Way Tan-
lac Improved His Wife's
Health.

"The wonderful improvement in my wife's general health is entirely due to Tanlac, and I am glad of the chance to tell folks what a splendid medicine we have proved it to be," declared William Armstrong of 98 Winter street, St. John, N. B., recently.

"No one will ever know what she has suffered during the past few years on account of indigestion and gastritis. Rich or heavy foods acted like poison on her stomach and she had to be very careful in her diet. But even so the gas would form and blast her up until she would almost choke and sometimes she would fairly groan with agony on account of the pains which she had after eating. She had frequently bilious attacks that left her so weak that she could hardly stand, and at one time she was so bad that we had to send her to the hospital. They patched her up for a bit, but it wasn't long before she was just as bad as ever.

"When I saw the papers that so many people with stomach trouble were being helped by Tanlac, I got some for my wife, for I reasoned that if it didn't do her much good, it couldn't do her any harm. She often remarks now what a good thing it was she tried Tanlac, and after the way it has helped her, we have absolute faith in it. She now has a good appetite and can eat anything without fear of any stomach trouble afterwards. She is never bothered with biliousness and indeed feels better in every way. She is more grateful than I can say for all the good Tanlac has done her, and we never miss an opportunity of passing on the good news of what a splendid medicine it is."

Tanlac is sold in St. John by the Ross Drug Company and F. W. Munro; by G.

ST. JOHN MAN

ON OLYMPIC TEAM

Official Announcement of the
Make-up of Canadian Team
Reaches City.

The official announcement of the make-up of the Olympic Trap Shooting team has been received in the city. O. J. Killam of this city is high man for



O. J. KILLAM.

the dominion, having made a score of 286 out of a possible 300. The other members of the team follow—W. H. Allen, High River, Alta.; H. J. Montgomery, Beausville, Ont.; B. McLaren, Calgary, Alta.; Sam Vance, Tillamook, Ont.; J. H. Black, Winnipeg, (captain); "True" Oliver, Vancouver, B. C.; and George Beattie, Hamilton, Ont. The first man on the waiting list is James McLaughlin of Halifax, and he will make the trip in case any of the others are unable to go.

The team will sail from Quebec on July 2, and will compete in the Clay Bird Shooting championships in England, July 15, 16 and 17. The team will then go to Antwerp where it will compete in the Olympic meet, which takes place July 22 to 31. Following the Olympic meet the Canadians will take part in the Belgian State Championships and will sail from Antwerp for home on August 8.

WHERE IT BEGINS.

There is a certain professor of natural history who delights in propounding catch questions to his class, and one young fellow, who had been caught by one, determined to get even. At the next class, therefore, he said gravely: "Professor, you have made a special study of snakes, have you not?" "Yes, I think I am fairly well informed as to that branch," the professor responded. "Then, professor, you can undoubtedly inform me on a point which, while doubtless simple, puzzles me. May I ask you a question?" The professor began to feel uneasy, but there was nothing to reply but "yes." "Then, sir, what I desire to know is, Where does a snake's tail begin?" The professor was silent for a moment, and a titter began to run over the room, which increased to a roar as the professor replied calmly: "That is quite simple; it begins at the end of the snake which is not the head."

Moncton Man Appointed.

Ottawa, June 7.—(Canadian Press).—The civil service commission announces the appointment of T. R. Wilson, Moncton, N. B., as junior radio electrician.

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CHEERING REPORTS.

A despatch from the International Institute of Agriculture at Rome said the 1920 wheat production in British India would be 864,900,000 bushels, or 180.1 per cent of the 1919 production and 103.4 per cent of a five year average 1914-1918. The 1920 production of corn in Argentina was estimated at 238,492,000 bushels or 115.4 per cent of the 1919

production and 132.1 per cent of a five year average 1914-1918. The condition of cereals on May 1st was average in Great Britain, Ireland, France, Hungary, Portugal, Egypt and Morocco. There was drought in South Italy and in Algeria.

19 Potatoes, \$1.50.

Kingsport, Ont., June 7.—Nineteen potatoes sold on the market here on Saturday for \$1.50, but they were exceptionally large and their total weight was eighteen pounds. They were of the "lost island" variety of spuds.

RUSSIANS IN ARMENIA.
London, June 1.—Two Russian cavalry regiments crossed the Armenian frontier at Vanadzor, May 21, and are advancing into Armenia, according to a despatch from Tiflis. Armenia has protested to the Soviet government at Moscow and has sent troops to the scene, the despatch adds.

USE The Want Ad

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